

FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES PARTNERS, LLC

(A Delaware limited liability company) 100 Cummings Center, Suite 207P Beverly, Massachusetts 01915 (888) 631-8922 info@supportingstrategies.com www.supportingstrategies.com SUPPORTING strategies ●

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Department of Business Oversight Los Angeles Office

The franchise offered is for the operation of business which provides outsourced bookkeeping and operational support for small businesses ("Franchise Business").

The total investment necessary to begin the operation of a SUPPORTING STRATEGIES® Franchise Business is \$76,930 to \$102,190. This includes \$60,000 that must be paid to us or our affiliate.

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of your Franchise Agreement and other information in plain English. Read this disclosure document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this disclosure document at least 14 calendar days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. Note, however, that no government agency has verified the information contained in the document.

You may wish to receive your disclosure document in another format that is more convenient for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Stephen Schultz, Supporting Strategies Partners, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 207P, Beverly, Massachusetts 01915, (978) 236-4277 x 229.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Don't rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contract. Read all of your contract carefully. Show your contract and this disclosure to an advisor like a lawyer or accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this disclosure document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising such as "<u>A Consumer Guide to Buying a Franchise</u>," which can help you understand how to use this disclosure document is available from the Federal Trade Commission. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580. You can also visit the FTC's home page at <u>www.ftc.gov</u> for additional information. Call your state agency or visit your public library for other sources of information on franchising.

There may also be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.

Date of Issue of this Franchise Disclosure Document: April 30, 2017, as amended July 31, 2017. (See State Cover Page for state effective dates.)

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STATE COVER PAGE

Your state may have a franchise law that requires a franchisor to register or file with a state franchise administrator before offering or selling in your state. REGISTRATION OF A FRANCHISE BY A STATE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STATE RECOMMENDS THE FRANCHISE OR HAS VERIFIED THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE.

Call the state franchise administrator listed in Exhibit A for information about the franchisor, or about franchising in your state.

MANY FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO RENEW UNCONDITIONALLY AFTER THE INITIAL TERM EXPIRES. YOU MAY HAVE TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT WITH DIFFERENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE YOUR BUSINESS. BEFORE YOU BUY, CONSIDER WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE TO RENEW YOUR FRANCHISE, IF ANY, AND WHAT TERMS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ACCEPT IN ORDER TO RENEW.

Please consider the following RISK FACTORS before you buy this franchise:

- 1. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES YOU TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH US BY MEDIATION/ARBITRATION/LITIGATION ONLY IN MASSACHUSETTS. OUT OF STATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MAY FORCE YOU TO ACCEPT A LESS FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR DISPUTES. IT MAY COST MORE TO MEDIATE/ARBITRATE /LITIGATE WITH US IN MASSACHUSETTS THAN IN YOUR OWN STATE.
- 2. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT STATES THAT MASSACHUSETTS LAW GOVERNS THE AGREEMENT, AND THIS LAW MAY NOT PROVIDE THE SAME PROTECTIONS AND BENEFITS AS LOCAL LAW. YOU WANT TO COMPARE THESE LAWS.
- 3. THE FRANCHISEE WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE AN ESTIMATED INITIAL INVESTMENT RANGING FROM \$76,930 TO \$102,190. THIS AMOUNT EXCEEDS THE FRANCHISOR'S MEMBER'S EQUITY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016, WHICH IS REPORTED TO BE A DEFICIT OF \$1,305,182.
- 4. YOU MUST MAKE MINIMUM ROYALTY AND TECHNOLOGY PAYMENTS, REGARDLESS OF YOUR SALES LEVELS. YOUR INABILITY TO MAKE THE PAYMENTS MAY RESULT IN TERMINATION OF YOUR FRANCHISE AND LOSS OF YOUR INVESTMENT.
- 5. THERE MAY BE OTHER RISKS CONCERNING THIS FRANCHISE.

We use the services of one or more FRANCHISE BROKERS or referral sources to assist us in selling our franchise. A franchise broker or referral source represents us, not you. We pay this person a fee for selling our franchise or referring you to us. You should be sure to do your own investigation of the franchise.

State Effective Dates: (See the next page for state effective dates.)

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STATE EFFECTIVE DATES

The following states require that the Franchise Disclosure Document be registered or filed with the state or be exempt from registration: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

This Franchise Disclosure Document is registered, on file or exempt from registration in the following states having franchise registration or disclosure laws, with the following effective dates:

State	Effective Date
California	April 17, 2017
Hawaii	June 15, 2017
Illinois	April 18, 2017
Indiana	May 23, 2017
Maryland	November 30, 2016, as
	amended, May 10, 2017
Michigan	May 12, 2017
Minnesota	July 11, 2017
New York	June 14, 2017
North Dakota	May 23, 2017
Rhode Island	April 16, 2017
South Dakota	May 5, 2017
Virginia	September 2, 2016, as
	amended, as amended May
	4, 2017
Washington	September 12, 2016, as
·	amended May 2, 2 017
Wisconsin	April 13, 2017

In all the other states, the effective date of this Franchise Disclosure Document is the issuance date of April 30, 2017. as amended July 31, 2017.

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